

DOLL TALK

FOR
COLLECTORS

Volume 13, Number 12

May - June, 1961

MODERN MINIATURES

Miniaturia, the world of tiny objects, has been a fascinating field for collectors for many years. Just study the handsome illustrations in doll books by such experts as Flora Gill Jacobs, plates that deal with the fabulous doll houses of past centuries, and you will perhaps be affected by some of the same fascination that must have possessed their owners of yesteryear.

Miniature dolls have always been a favorite with Kimport customers, be they fragile antiques or inexpensive creations of today. We were delighted when Esther Nordin, Creator of "Wee Women," offered to do a "Bitsy Bride" exclusively for us. This petite, 2 inch bride is complete in every detail. Her wedding ensemble is white silk and lace with bridal veil and bouquet. Her sweetly hand-painted face and head are wooden with the tiniest of wigs. Limbs are bendable and each B.B. comes on her individual base, signed by the maker, all in a neat little hinge topped transparent "pill box." A true tiny treasure, No. 78, just \$2.25.

Other intriguing Kimport miniatures include such perennial favorites as Mexican dressed Fleas,

No. 390. Yes, I said real fleas, dressed and boxed in pairs at \$1.00. Also from South of the Border are finely detailed tiny peons done on the end of a needle, No. 390N, \$1.00 each, and Mexican Walnuts with four sequence scenes placed into a cut, hinged English Walnut shell. These scenes feature several tiny dolls and the whole shell can be closed and latched when not on display. No. 390P, \$1.50.

Guatemala sends a whole bentwood box, 1½ inches long, and brightly painted, full of doll miniatures, six in each box, made of bent wire, yarn and cloth. Complete set, No. 366M, 95c.

Italian wood carvers are another group that provides us with a variety of teeny weenies. Pinocchio, No. 764, is a 2½ inch portrait of the fictional naughty child, all wood, brightly painted in red suit and dunce cap with a long sharp nose and black round eyes. 35c. From the same Italian workshop come 1 inch Easter eggs, painted and hollow with a ½ inch bambino inside, No. 754, at 75c. Inch high, brightly painted ballerina tops that really spin, No. 759, 6 for \$1.00. Just last Doll Talk featured wooden Italian Madonna Rotary box,





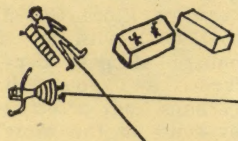
No. 390P



No. 366M



No. 754



No. 390N

No. 390

only 2 3/4 inches high, softly painted in shades of powder blue and gold with tiny silver and blue bead rosary inside. No. 772, \$1.50.

Jamaican, 2 inch miniatures are in the form of brightly colored yarn dolls with real fiber hats, calypso style, mounted on safety pins so they can be worn, as well as displayed in more conventional ways. No. 271, \$1.25 the pair.

Also in the can-be-worn category are those silver French Fashion doll pins made for us by a New England sport and costume jewelry firm. These nicely detailed in bas-relief, 1 1/4 inch pins portray a fashion doll in post civil war costume. No. 37P, \$1.25.

A tipsy pair in Alpine attire are those funny finger puppet types with tightly strung elastic limbs that flop limply into a variety of acrobatic positions when you press a button on the base. He has walking stick and beer mug, while she has umbrella and purse, while both are all wood, cute as can be with round eyes, red cheeks and Tyrolean hats. No. 767, an Italian import, at \$2.00 per pair, 3 1/2 inches over all, including 1 inch base.

NO RIVALRY AT ALL

We are always thrilled over the fresh young enthusiasm of some of our older collectors: Mrs. Arthur L. Saunders of Maine just wrote:

"When I saw the new doll booklet, I lost my resolve to stop doll buying and am sending you my check. Please send a native ebony doll from Kenya and a stand for a Liberty doll. Please also let me know if you find a Pygmy. You were out, I believe, when I wrote for one.

"I am glad that I sent for the Policeman from Fiji and it is strange about my friend's buying one for me. He brought one like mine, but as he was opening the package a young relative was there and exclaimed with joy that he had brought that for her. Of course he gave it to her. It would not have been at all right to say that one was bringing it for someone over eighty would it? So in the end both of us are happy."

LAST ABOUT OUR ROUND-THE-WORLD

By Ruby Short McKim

This will be all about the DOLLS of London Town, that is, as faithfully as one can keep single track-ed on the terrain of a city, so beloved. Our heritage of British Isles ancestry, our common pre-Revolutionary history, our mother tongue, somehow do make for bonds unbreakable!

Eight days in London totaled eight good theater and concert dates (no cinema) and that left ample time for all the walking we could take. Shops and museums, market days where antique dealers spread their wares, here are impressions of them all, abbreviated down to qualify for **Doll Talk**.

Selfridge's enormous department store makes shopping for shipping as simple as at any of our own emporiums. There, I bought samples of currently made English dolls. The Peggy Nisbet line of English Royalty, traditionally costumed Scotch, Irish, etc. 'Cries of London' do comprise an extensive list, but definitely, all "doll faced." It was the Peggy Nisbet dolls, by the way, which were in our ship's gift shops; some American stores, Macy and Altman in New York, I think, stocked these from the 1938 Toy Trade Fair when British manufacturers sent a special display.

Cottage Industries line of 9 inch dolls had varied character faces. Pearly King and Queen, gentlemen in uniforms, girls and ladies in something specifically English, or—one we had sent back to **Kimport** was an irresistible "Gigi."

From an assortment of inexpensive, exaggeratedly slim bendables, there was one pair of proper foxhunters that did look so impeccably British in their black and white and scarlet. Not until we examined them back home did we decipher on a riding boot sole, "Made in West Germany!"

The Ottenberg group of Henry Tudor and his elegant six Queens, 12 inch size, was beautifully done by another English firm, but very expensive.

Liberty, Ltd., had long lived in memory as perhaps the most beautiful store in the world. Their rich fabrics and fashions, their world wide treasures of wrought metals, precious stones and ivory, the rarest of woods and leathers manipulated by generations of foreign artists into bibelots and beautiful accomplishments beyond belief! Back of the ancient, leaded glass facade, one door leads into the Liberty of London doll and toy shop. Here were, as we say on a **Kimport** catalogue, "Dolls From the Whole Wide World." Oh, there was but a fraction of far countries shown, that we assemble for collectors, but they were beauties! Play dolls from English makers and across the Channel ranged in bewildering array. The only ones we coveted for you though, were those handmade as 'Liberty Dolls.' Each little cloth face is hand painted, each costume might be from brocade, fine wool or linen scraps from their costume workrooms. The few ladies who, with much artistry and it seems a dash of jealousy, have kept Liberty dolls for their very own project, are elderly and fewer. There is

no surplus to export as many of you will remember how we used to do.

Museums—"Victoria and Albert" was first on our list, but dolls were only spotted in with other showings here, no toy and doll exhibit. Their needlework, everything from the sheerest of lace to heavy tapestry, all dated and authenticated did open up a tangent hobby which I had to follow for a few amazing hours. Here were four dolls and one child figure, I remember her golden acorn pendant on a chain. One of the Queen Ann type said Circa 1730, in day clothes. Her wig was flax, woven through a burlap-like material; carved wooden hand and leather shoes and porcelain eyes. Jotted notes from this gallery included such reminders as '1700, silver gilt thread, some in tent stitch, padded quilting and 'stump work' which was bas relief figures on rich padded backgrounds! I wouldn't know how ancient sequins are, but some of these single hole discs were seen on amidst fine braid and buttonholing on a coif worn by the mother of Oliver Cromwell.

In the Costume Wing of V. and A., a few period dolls were displayed with the museum dresses. I made quick sketches of a yellowed wax with quite enormous eyes in the 1760-1790 cabinet. Her fragile, falling-apart gown was of chiffon over embroidered satin, low neck, pointed front bodice, triple puffed sleeve, trimmed additionally with flowers handmade from threads of silk.

With a suit of 1867 there was a French bisque "Fashion" lady doll smartly attired in a lined taf-

feta outfit, short jacket, braid trimmed skirt with over-drape, old bronze kid button shoes and smartly "dinky" sailor hat. Ah, there's a kind we do still get for collectors. The massive structure, 'round an open court which now bears the Victoria and Albert title, is built on the site of a well beloved old wooden museum which bore that name. As it became hopelessly inadequate, a new location in the residential section of East London, 'Bethnel Green,' was bought and, literally board by board, the outgrown V. and A. was moved, re-assembled and re-stocked whilst its ponderous successor was built on that vacated spot.

So—at Bethnel Green Museum we really found enough dolls to keep us thrilled for hours and hours. In the open department on a wide balcony where dolls and toys are displayed, are group settings, information cards, some really choice dolls in their own right, while others smacked of owner importance. For instance, one exhibit of three German bisque ordinaries wore costumes of the Greencourt Charity School—"so what?" But an 18th Century Nuremburg kitchen was so completely outfitted that it had been used in schools to show good home arrangement. An early 19th Century Patriarchal Procession from China was a delightful grouping of some fifty dolls with animals, epiquages, accoutrements—lovely antiques which one would vision coming packed into the hold of a clipper ship to voyage 'round Cape Horn.

One group of penny woodens, similar to those shown in Jan-

uary D.T., I think were labeled 'Deutsch' and dated from the 18th Century on, saying these had been made by charcoal burners in the Black Forest.

The floor guide must have been impressed by our 'intelligent interest,' anyway, he fetched the head curator, charming, well informed, young Mr. Fordham. Then we were taken to the closed, downstairs research department where hundreds of wonderful old dolls reside. 'Twas in this room, up by the ceiling height windows (ground level outside) that color pictures had been taken by **Life Magazine** photographers for a feature article which did appear about a year ago.

Some of you will be interested in these dating notes which were affixed with their best knowledge, be 't assured!

A slender wax, kid thumb sewn into the kid hand, real hair wig, 1800.

Pair of old leather peddlars, 1810. Bazaar stall with merchandise and wooden doll, 1830. Another 'Fair Booth' similar was dated 1835.

China head, pink tint, long smooth lappet hair style with comb ornament, 1840.

Smallish, coachman clad man, with mutton-chop whiskers and top hat modeled in the pink bisque, 1850.

Papier-mache Negro characters with opaque glass or porcelain eyes, 1865.

Ball head china with a wig—their dating, 1865.

A Montanari wax boy and a swivel neck, kid bodied French both were tagged, 1870.

Since almost all types of dolls

were in continuing production for a varying number of seasons, it is undeniably impossible to pinpoint their very time of manufacture on any one doll. That is why we use that marvelous stretchable little word "circa," which "denotes with approximate accuracy."

Markets, auctions, small dealers in antiques, who bring barrows one week day for trading, all shed a more intriguing aura when in a foreign city. There is the Caledoen Market in Tower Bridge area, open only on Friday mornings. Porto Bella Market, I think, was the name of another, and auctions were advertised, profusely. But our precious London lady-friend said "NO" to such tourist and untutored wanderings where precious time and money would be wasted. She, having been our agent and source of so many, many, rare antiques knew what was best. This allowed for one only market spree with her. She had had her own shop which was completely bombed out; instead of starting all over again, she takes a few commissions, but definitely dolls are her first love. She even goes over to Paris four or five times a year, where stores of finds by French friends are kept until she comes.

Her tiny Georgian flat had only one wide back window, but it opened out over a chock full bit of garden where phlox, pansies, nasturtiums, etc., clustered in splendor to conceal plebeian lower parts of staked up beans and tomato plants. In the windowed little parlor there was so much excitement about her full cupboard

shelves of dolls accumulated for our coming, that proper justice to tea time could barely be accorded. And from her mantle shelf on the opposite wall, she insisted I have —'for someone in America'—the dearest little wax-in-a-dome, one of her first buys, years ago, at a country sale from some estate.

From here, I'll not trust myself to get gabbing about details, individual dolls that we bought and all such small shop talk; a bit of that could get into "Antiques," this issue.

Our three months of leisure in travel changed after lunch, into boarding a super-jet for New York; flying with the sun, Idlewild was there, well before dinner time!

For half a dozen **Doll Talks**, there has been a running story concerning what a trip around the world reveals through the eyes of a doll enthusiast. Truly, all sights and sounds, each new, unfolding experience was intensified in delight on account of having this central basis, a theme which artfully allowed for countless intriguing tangents. Of course, we've **known**, for twenty years we've been as satisfied as snobs that doll collectors are elite. They are well read, open minded and appreciative. They are quite often travelers and always people blessed by viewing life through what one might call 'God's skylight,' the visions of **IMAGINATION**.

EARLIEST WIRE-EYED WAX

The Victoria and Albert Museum in London shows one of the early wax baby dolls and claims that it is the first documented (1807) example of the "wire-eyed" type.



To carry forward part of the theme expressed on page one, namely June Brides, we'll list a sampling of some exotic foreign bridal dolls currently available. Most all these have been offered in previous issues but all will bear repeating.

India, the teeming subcontinent with its strange mixture of races, religions, castes and peoples presents us with not one but three couples of wedding dolls. All are handsome, in 12 inch size of cloth construction with pressed faces, effectively fashioned with a fine blend of colors that make them eye catching in any group.

The Hindu pair is especially rich looking with the man, No. 658, in his turban and robes, the woman, No. 658A, in pleated sari and bejewelled "thali" or nose ring. Here are blending hues of red, orange, green, magenta and other colors.

The Moslem couple has the groom, No. 659, in red fez and stylish robes brightly embroidered, while his shy bride, No. 659A, also has that Arabic look enhanced by white satin harem trousers, silver trimmed over-dress and ornate jewelry in her hair.

The pair representing the Parsi sect, descended from ancient Persian conquerors, are both clad entirely in white with orange slippers and a red satin blossom in their hands. A tall black brocade

hat is worn by the man, No. 657, while the bride, No. 657A, covers her lustrous black hair with a white scarf trimmed in silver. All three couples are priced \$11.90 per pair and are an excellent buy whether you specialize in bridal dolls or have a general foreign collection.



Neighboring Pakistan, the divided nation that comprises most of what used to be the Moslem states of India, sends a Mohammedan bride. Pretty, 9 inches tall, she has an attractive, slender featured face; her all red wedding garb includes traditional 'Gharara, Jumper and Dupatta.' Seated or standing, No. 677A, she is \$6.00.

Yugoslavian dolls come in a rich variety of costumes depicting such ancient provincial names as Serbia, Bosnia or Croatia. However, the one pair in bridal attire, comes from the rugged mountain section called Montenegro. Extremely well made and attractive, 8½" dolls with embroidered and



modeled silk faces are both Hamilear in red jacket, multi-colored sash, blue trousers and black pillbox hat, as well as Helene in white skirt, red blouse with white lace sleeves, aqua bodice trimmed in gold, and a black—yes black net veil. They are truly representative of a little known corner of Europe that even today has feudal customs in much of their everyday life. He, No. 866, \$5.25, and she, No. 866A, at \$5.75.

From a Methodist mission in Seoul, we obtain a handsome pair of 9 inch Koreans. These dolls on their individual cloth covered bases wear prescribed ornate wedding costumes. The groom has a full sleeved bright blue robe, heavy soled black boots, and unusual black fiber, winged hat. She is a rainbow of colors in sheer silk red dress with yellow, blue, white, green and magenta sleeves, plus a fancy flowered headdress.

Through a bun of her black hair there is a shoulder width golden bar! Faces are handsomely featured, hand painted on flesh tinted silk. Groom, No. 554, Bride, No. 554A, priced \$5.00 each.

Zori, our 9 inch, booted Hungarian Bride is from the Sarkoz district. A favorite stand-by in the Kimport line, she is gaily dressed in a wide range of colors and trim, including a garland crested flower headdress, big puffed sleeves, embroidered ribbon her apron skirt and blouse, all in shades of red, yellow, green and blue. A finely made doll with nicely made, sturdy peasant body of cloth, with pretty, Slavic, composition face. No. 205, \$7.95.

Our staunch Pacific ally, the Philippines, sends us Lila, a truly beautiful native bride in a wedding ensemble that is up to date yet traditional in style and native in materials. Her pure white dress is a mixture of satin and "jusi" fiber with silver sequins: Lila wearing pearl jewelry, illusion veil and tiny floral bouquet is an especially lovely cloth doll with tawny complexion, enormous dark eyes and wavy black hair. Top quality workmanship, 9 inch size, on hard wood base. No. 466, \$6.50.

From the Hashemite Kingdom of Trans-Jordan comes little 7½ inch Bethlehem Bride, direct from Manger Square, a smaller edition of our previously offered 10 inch "Mina-Ruth," in a costume every bit as elaborate as the larger edition. She is a flat faced cloth doll with painted features, fairly crude construction, but wearing richly embroidered and authentic wed-

ding attire. Her costume seems Biblical with flowing robes of red and black, ornately paneled and handworked bodice, and flowing sleeved jacket. A tall red fez, covered with a white veil, is decorated with her silver dowry coins. She has a cloth stuffed body, black yarn hair and a detachable wooden stand. No. 855B, \$3.95.



The Hardanger district of Norway sends us Dagmar, a youthful looking, 9½ inch Scandinavian bride. Her costume, one of Europe's most traditional, features golden crown headdress, colorfully beaded bodice with matching skirt trimmed in black and gold braid, black vest and an apron of snowy white with lacey trim. Her only jewelry is a wrought silver brooch. Made of heavy celluloid with a

fine flesh texture, she has a sturdy jointed body, pale blond hair and a sweet expressive face with dark eyes and pert nose. No. 970A, \$9.95.

Incidentally, we have a few matching grooms, Sigurd, No. 970, at the same price, so, a pair, if you prefer, at \$19.90.

A PLEASANT REMINDER

In a little Christmas card note to Kim McKim, Miss Elizabeth Hooper of Baltimore, recalls pleasant associations with **Kimport** many years ago, almost from the beginning of our doll ventures. In those days she had written and supplied us a little book called "Royal Dolls." She wrote:

"I remember with pleasure, your visit with me in Baltimore a long time ago, with your father and mother. I always enjoyed my associations with them. I still have my dolls and books and poems. In the current showing of the movie at Radio City, New York, 'The World of Suzie Wong,' I noted the grave models in paper of various toys. I enjoyed it so much."

READIN' AN' RAMBLIN'

Reading along in Costain's historical novel "Ride With Me" (page 286) some fascinating girl had "the rosy cheeks and turned up nose of a Fanny Royds Doll!" Do y' suppose they manufactured name editions of dolls back in young Napoleon's day? Whoever this colorful, pert nosed Fanny may have been, the portrait idea has certainly persisted through ever popular current play dolls; maybe Miss Royds became the great-great-grandmother of Shirley Temple or even Betsy Wetsy!

WITCHCRAFT!

What ups'n'downs do come our way—mostly "ups" though, thanks to that God given enthusiasm which most doll collectors do seem to have!

For today's example, we just loved a letter from a young mother with the gay name of Madeline Powers, albeit her home town is Salem, Massachusetts, where, once upon a time, you know what bleak old ups and downs dripped infamy on our Puritan pages.

Well, three hundred years later, M.P. writes: "On Valentine's Day, our five-year-old Jean's first shipment from **Kimport** arrived, and for the first ten minutes I was tempted to return those wierd looking Rhodesian reed dolls. Untwisted, they proved to be a barrel of fun! Jean said they were her best Valentine; when we got tired of making them dance via our big toes, as per instructions, we hung them on our doll cabinet door latches. They are delightfully different. Do you have any idea of what the fur is? Jean's ten-year-old brother says, 'lions.'"

As to furs used, Rickie's idea could be correct for some, but monkey types and oh such variety as one could imagine being at hand, down around Kariba Lake in southeastern Africa, bedeck the heads and loins of these extremely crude reed dolls which actually have neither heads nor loins!

One dignified gentleman collector promptly returned the pair sent to him—politely but positively, without setting them up. And now the commercial—No. 110, almost 9 inches high, this pair of dancing bamboo dolls, \$1.95.



In "Gigi" the gay Parisian movie, Maurice Chevalier sings that happy song, "Thank Heaven for Little Girls." It has been echoing through our consciousness accompanied of course by visions of Little Girl Dolls! The only sad note is putting such darlings into a closet for the weeks until May-June Doll Talk comes to you. But through no naughtiness of their own!

German also, but a choice 19 inch character type child is "Donna," so dubbed because she closely resembles a beautiful seven-year-old in our block. By Simon Halbig, her features are a handmade real hair wig of light brown with soft curls, but plain above her high forehead, threaded brown eyes, shapely, pierced ears and there are six tiny teeth which only are visible beneath a cupid's bow lip when looked at below chin level. Donna possessed only earrings and a hair ribbon more than Pansy! No. A708, \$47.50.



First into that closet we're hustling three bisques with jointed wood-and-composition bodies who need clothes! Twenty-four inch "Pansy" (name incised on the back of her neck) has been played with, but her pretty hands with separated fingers and child featured, bisque head are perfect. Luxuriant brown hair, set blue eyes, open mouth. No. A557, \$26.00.

Miss Jumeau is last of these unclads, and surely rare enough she is to climax any group! Enormous blown glass eyes, deep brown, are the first thing one sees; they're lined all around with finest brush lines, also brown brows are feathered. Pert nose above rose tinted lips that someway smile though closed; applied ears are pierced, and most becoming wig, rich

brown, luxuriantly curly. Markings? Oh, several, in red on her neck, but "Tete Jumeau" is largest and then on her lips there's the "Jumeau Medal d'or" stamping. Her bronze kid slippers (original socks, too) are marked Paris and Eden-Bebe. This Dream-Come-True child, scant 20 inches tall, is No. A329, \$150.00.

Now, fully clad, a marked Jumeau of later date with parted lips, but she's a darling school-girl. Her truly blown eyes are blue; pierced ears; real hair, cut bobbed, is straight with side part, light sandy brown. Markings are incised 1907 above red letters "Tete Jumeau." Oval seal on her hips reads "Bebe Jumeau and Diplome d' Honneur." Original French school dress is long waisted, blue dotted white muslin, with a lined sailor collar—all braid trimmed; she also has a blue serge tam—19 inches tall, No. A426, \$150.00.

Another little French aristocrat has markings unknown to us "j j" incised and a letter "S" applied, like bas-relief. Big, rounded out, blue eyes look so human, pierced ears, pretty, modeled-in teeth, quite a dimple in her chin and golden brown hair (real) with bangs, pompadour and pony tail. Precious old challis frock is a red, pin-dot on ivory, embroidered in fine red yarn, crewel stitch, adorable style—but—sorry, it is a bit ragged. 15½ inches tall, No. A651, \$135.00.

Big little girl dolls, largely of German make, were the ones lucky children found under the Christ-

mas tree for ever so many years. Christmas must have been suggested by the cherry-red, knife pleated dress of China silk worn by a 25 inch tall bisque, shoulder headed doll. It is a lovely frock, lace trimmed and styled with a berth. Sleeping blue eyes with lashes; teeth?—yes; bisque arms and kidline cloth body; handmade "family hair" wig is brown; marking "Heubach." Big doll, No. A602, \$37.50.

Next doll is the same height, but she does have a larger, swivel necked head on composition body jointed only at hips and shoulders, quite unusual in this large size. Shapely legs and hands; all nice quality, a pierced ear bisque with modeled brows and big brown eyes, with strangely, only lower lashes painted; lips parted with really pretty modeled teeth; old pink silk damask dress with rows of black velvet ribbon. We couldn't stand her frowzy old wig, so the long golden-brown mohair curls, all ten of them, are brand new! Marking is "D.E.P." only, which of course tells nothing of to whom the patent went. Twenty-five inch, No. A456, \$36.00.

Just one more lovable big bisque, this one by Armand Marseille—26 inches tall, sleeping, bright blue eyes; brown mohair wig is very soft, with bangs and curls. She is a shoulder head, 7 inch high size; parted lips; bisque dimpled hands are pale and perfect; cuddly old homemade body that sits well, and very sweet old dress of cream tint embroidered mull. No. A524, only \$28.00.

Really child-like heads are scarce, but we've one high glaze porcelain head 5" high, 10" circumference, a beautiful blue eyed blond often called the "Currier and Ives" little girl. One center curl tumbles down over her forehead and in profile, hair follows head contour then fans out into two soft rolls. There is a home-made body of blue striped feather ticking and reproduction china limbs, which we would say are free. 19" tall, price really for the head, "Little Girl with a Curl," No. A503, \$80.00.

There are quite a few small ones, like a 7" sleeping eyed bisque and composition, marked both "Halbig" and "Kammer Reinhard's K.R.," with the s's point "Star of Judah!" Brown glass eyes, long brown hair, and pretty clothes, No. A667, \$16.50. "Happy Anne" has long blond hair, big, big, brown eyes (set) a lovely quality old bisque and composition child 7¼" tall, perfect old clothes, too, No. A666, \$14.00.

But we do want to tell about a few of those odd things from London, as were suggested in the Travel Tale: First, is a lady's umbrella handle! Yes, but it is also an exquisite Meissen lady doll head,—not straight up, as the handle crooks. Hard to describe, but it would spark a collection of half dolls! Mended but not on the head. A strange and delightful little collector item with other fine elaborate decor in multicolor and coin gold. No. A750, \$17.50.

Another that is even more queer,—the man who sold this to me laughed heartily, saying he knew that somebody either artistic or

very crazy would buy it someday! It is a head,—may be a man with spectacles and sort of mutton-chop brown hair, pointed collar effect in the glaze and little blurred hands hold the ends of a scarf. Height is 2½". No. A751, \$8.50.

Also from the London market is a fine example of old Japanese doll-making from Clipper Ship days, a girl doll whose shoes make us think she was made in a mission school. Hands, head and lovely hair still in excellent condition: open mouth which is unusual, with suggestion of tiny teeth above; inset eyes. One only thumb is missing on a finely carved wooden hand. Original costume looks its age, is fine, old silk, worn and faded, but so queerly fashioned,—open at hips with padded underscarments beneath. 7½" tall, No. A541. Special \$30.00.

Last is a carved wood head only, a man that looks like a French Revolution character, although I presume it would have been a Creche. It too, is very old; quite lovely carving; with inset eyes about 2½" high. No. A354, priced \$32.50.

CERTAINLY IS ANSWER

A reader of *Hobbies* asked for a sample copy of *Doll Talk* and wrote: "I am also interested in obtaining a list of dolls you are selling via mail. After trudging along Third and Second Avenues (New York antique district) in search of dolls, and discovering nary a one (except a moth eaten rag doll) I have decided perhaps this 'mail route' may be the answer after all."

—Mrs. John Madden

DOLL TALK

Editor, Ruby Short McKim

A magazine in miniature, published for doll enthusiasts. Issued about every eight weeks.

Subscription is \$1.00 for one year.

Address:

KIMPORT DOLLS
Independence, Mo.



HOW TO DRESS A DOLL

Anything written or recommended by Clara H. Fawcett is well worth the consideration of any doll collector. This is the way she describes a little 4¼ x 6 inch ring bound book in its preface.

"Doll collectors will welcome this charmingly illustrated little book, **How to Dress a Doll**, written in 1908. Many of us in our childhood played with just such dolls as are shown in its pages—lovely bisque-headed, jointed "children," exports from Germany or France. These beautiful dolls were so popular that the market for them lasted well into the 20th century, and are now collectors' items, becoming more and more popular with collectors as the years pass.

"Women whose childhood memories are of the early 20th century will remember the thrill they got at Christmas time when they spied under the Christmas tree

dolls just like the ones sketched so faithfully in these pages, and whose collections include examples of them. Many need guidance as to authentic costume for these "children" of yesteryear, especially younger collectors without firsthand knowledge of the styles of the period. General directions for sewing will be of use to the uninitiated, and the simple patterns and directions will delight all 'doll' dressmakers."

You may order this helpful book from **Kimport Dolls**, at \$2.00 postpaid.

MINIATURE PALACE

We can depend on anything concerning miniature doll rooms or furnishings interesting Flora Gill Jacobs. We have a steady sale on her own delightful book, **A History of Doll Houses**, \$7.50 postpaid, and she is an authority on the subject.

In the April 1961 **Spinning Wheel**, Mrs. Jacobs pictures and describes the "Kyoto Palace in Miniature," a rare collection of Japanese dolls, furniture and rooms brought to the United States by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Nichols of Washington, D.C.

She writes: "In Japan, such dolls and their furnishings, handed down from generation to generation, are brought out each March 3 for the Hina Matsuri or Dolls Festival, when Japanese parents pray for the protection and happiness of their young daughters, and a traditional tea ceremony features very small refreshments. Markets offer tiny vegetables grown by specialists, along with miniature fish and a variety of Lilliputian cakes."

BROCHURE OF DOLLS From The VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM

Queen Victoria's interest in dolls, from her early years on, assured them a place of importance in all British museums. Describing the collection in the Victoria and Albert Museum, the curator writes: "In short, baby to crone, Queen to pedlar, there are here three centuries of European life in miniature, whether for historian or child of any age."

Some forty representative dolls from this museum were annotated and photographed for a 4½ x 7 inch book called **Dolls** and published under the authority of the Queen in England. **Kimport** has a very limited number of these booklets and will mail them at 50 cents postpaid while they last.

"WONDERLAND OF WORK"

Additional extracts about dolls from an old English book loaned to **Kimport** by Mrs. Alice Dorsey.

"Passing from the relics of the Toydom of those long-vanished ages, from bronze and bone and terra-cotta, to wax and china compositions, wood, papier-mache, ivory and India rubber, gutta-percha—from Egypt, Greece, Rome to the toydom of modern Europe—what strange changes we see.

"Although the Esquimaux have few comforts for the grown folks, the patient fathers manage to cut out of walrus tusks scarecrow-like dolls. In Java, many a little eastern lady has expensive dolls,

dressed in the finest materials and decorated with embroidery and real jewels. But the little Hindu girls, whatever their station, are annually called upon, previous to the great Dosseroh festival, to destroy all their poor little playthings; and then dollies, be they of clay, wood or other material, have to be carried in procession and flung into holy waters, a sacrifice calling for many tears.

"Something of the same custom reaches to Japan, where the little ladies, married young, are expected to place all their dolls and toys in a heap which is then burned as a token of growing up."

It's a far cry from ancient crafts and Oriental handwork to the highly industrialized doll making of Germany. Nuremberg was long famous for toys and Sonnenberg in Bavaria was especially noted for dolls. There was an extensive cottage craft as well as bustling factories, all supplying dolls to the little mothers of the world. Some dolls plainly and cheaply done undersold all competitors while others were fine enough to compare with the beauties of France; papier-mache was widely used but it was in the china doll field that Germany had its greatest success. Until World War I, they almost had a monopoly on common bisque and china dolls. Now those dolls, once so inexpensive, are on the want lists of doll collectors everywhere.

In France doll luxury kept apace with the profligate court. As example, at the Paris Exposition—"We are taken into the dressing room—that is to say, a dressing

room is thrown open to our astonished eyes. On a cozy chair a muslin dressing gown is spread, ready to be slipped on. The young lady calls attention to the extra fine quality of the Valenciennes edging and insertion, and the pink bows falling en cascade down the front. The poupee keeps in "an armavie a glace" her outfit of underclothing. Its luxury is unimaginable. Mademoiselle's Pompadour toilet table is priced at 1,700 F. The accessories are dear in proportion. We find among other nicknacks and indispensable trifles, a Venetian looking-glass, a hand mirror framed in repousse silver, nail polishers, brushes and pigments in carved ivory boxes and cut-glass bottles. She is provided moreover with a bewilderingly numerous assortment of wigs, chignons, frisettes, braids, Anglaises and rolls of false hair. She is verily a satire on the manners of the day!"

An English critic went to the other extreme: "I miss the dear old honest, staring doll, worth just sixpence, and costing no more, who had in every way to be provided for. I used to love my doll merely because I wanted to love something, and because it was a doll. A rag doll pleased me just as much as one bought in the toy-shop."

All history is not written on battlefields. Even in the quaint chronicle of toys and dolls you can see the affections and tastes of children in bygone generations—and the character of their parents as well!

CORRESPONDENCE CLIPPINGS

"Now with a Vatican Guard, a Beefeater and a Fiji Policeman, we certainly will be taken care of!" —Mrs. Florence Saunders, Me.

"Our Hoosier Doll Collector Club has recently assembled a packet of color slides on foreign dolls. I am proud to have my Margarete Uebel wax from **Kimport** in this series which will be shown at April meeting, John Herron Art Institute, Indianapolis."

—Mrs. Madonna Gossa, Ind.

"Thanks, for your prompt and courteous service, extermination of red tape, so to speak. I will enjoy my **Kimport** dolls even more because I get them so soon after ordering."

—Beth Kimball, Tex.

"Thanks for the 'Lucky Thirteen' doll, and of course I'll have to keep on. 'Just wouldn't seem right not to have one **Kimport** doll arriving every month!'"

—Mrs. Lila Stark, Calif.

"I certainly enjoy **Doll Talk**, although it is our ten-year-old daughter who is the collector along with mother's help and enthusiasm."

—Mrs. R. C. Bolinger, Md.

"Dolls are such a delight! We are continuing the collection for my two granddaughters. My daughter's collection has also been the inspiration to other members of our family to begin collections."

—Mrs. Violet Hall, Pa.

DOLL PRIMER: HISTORY OF EARLY FASHION DOLL

The word "fashion" has become almost synonymous with French dolls of the late 1800 decades, because the Paris touch gave such charm and style to dolls and costumes that they won world-wide approval. Yet the true fashion doll is quite another story. Researchers such as Von Boehn go back centuries, when royalty of Spain and France and England exchanged gifts of dolls with their extensive wardrobes. They can be dated as early as 1391 in royal household accounts. After four hundred years run, to about 1800, the dolls gave way to magazine illustrations and printed paper dolls.

The first fashion dolls were thought to have been life-size and probably made to the measure of the lady to whom presented. 459 francs, then a large sum, was paid the French court tailor in 1396 for a doll's wardrobe sent to any English queen by Charles VI. A century later, a great doll was ordered and given by Anne of Brittany to Queen Isabella of Spain. In the salon of an early French novelist, there used to stand two dressed dolls: "La Grande Pandora" in latest costume mode, and "La Petite Pandora" in negligé featuring stylish lingerie. Henry IV of France sent his fiancée, Marie de Medici, a whole group of dolls showing the latest fashions in Paris. The more famous Catherine de Medici was rumored to have had 16 of her fashion dolls dressed in mourning at the death of her husband the king.

French fashion dolls reached many countries, traveling even as far as Russia, but England was the best customer. Later, English styles were displayed on dolls and many were sent to America. A quaint advertisement appeared in a Boston paper in 1733 saying that Mrs. Hannah Teatt had a mannequin in latest London style just imported. This could be seen for two shillings or taken out for copying at a rental of seven shillings. Oddly enough, a doll with three sets of costumes was called "layette" while six sets was named a "trousseau." Neither babies nor weddings seem to have been implied.

If "a cat can look at a queen," styles can't be held exclusively in the castle. Smaller and less expensive dolls were made for less wealthy folks, and it was said that even the Philadelphia Quakers had their fashion babies! The makers of the first fashion dolls were concerned with the costumes and paid little heed to the dolls themselves. They were made of wax, wood, or composition and some even with wax over wood. The French, traditionally with an eye to more profitable business, soon gave attention to the dolls themselves, and the quality of the dolls came to match the modish clothes they were made to display.

While few early models have survived the years, the popularity of dolls in the mode persisted and in the Golden Age of Dolls, 1860-1890, fashion dolls, smaller in form, modish in costume but in a delightful variety came importantly on the scene. These we'll describe anon.

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